

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM
10x10 Affordable Housing Blue Ribbon Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
Fresno City Hall, Conference Room 2165N (Rm. 'A' – 2nd Floor)
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, California 93721

Committee Members Present: Cynthia Sterling, Fresno City Council District 3 (Co-Chair)
Keith Bergthold, City of Fresno, (Chair)
Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, League of Woman Voters (via conference call)
Jess Negrete, Central California Legal Services
Rev. Sharon Stanley, FIRM
Dennis Woods, United Security Bank

Others Present: Claudia Cazares, City of Fresno, Housing
Charlotte Hylton, Deputy City Attorney
Matthew Lopez, City of Fresno
Dave Martin, Redevelopment Agency
Corrina Nunez, City of Fresno, Housing
Bill Ross, City of Fresno
Bonnie Rusko, Center for Independent Living
Chad Wakefield, Redevelopment Agency

Members Absent: Lee Brand
Dan Fitzpatrick
Ned Stacy
Veda Stamps
Paul Werfelmann
Robert Wood

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m. by Keith Bergthold

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Without a quorum present, approval of minutes were continued until the next meeting.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Subcommittee Housing Trust Fund

It was anticipated that Veda Stamps would present an update on the Housing Trust Fund. With Veda Stamps absent, her report will be tabled for the next meeting.

Corrina Nunez presented a report on the marketing and feasibility study for the Housing Trust. The deadline for submitting the Request for Proposals is tomorrow, March 14, 2008 at 5:00 pm. The study has been sent out to various groups. At this time, only one proposal has been received. Keith Bergthold will report on the results of the study at the next 10 x 10 Committee meeting. Councilmember Sterling admitted that many groups are unfamiliar with the process of submitting a proposal.

B. Innovation Code Enforcement

Sharon Stanley presented an update regarding the Innovative Code Enforcement subcommittee. In early February 2008, the Team met and have established ten recommendations. She handed out a copy of the recommendations and proceeded to report on each of the ten recommendations.

- Strengthen Housing Standard Team and Anti-Slum Task Force: The Anti-Slum Task Force (ASTF) will be transitioning in leadership with Councilmember Westerlund's departure to Iraq. The work of the ASTF will continue to be supported by the Code's Safe Housing Task Force Team that was reconfigured the beginning of February.
- Hire three additional Code Inspectors: Additional Code Inspectors that were hired in February 2008, have made Code's "Safe Housing Task Force Team" proactive and focused on 10 x 10 goals. The team will be supervised by Bill Ross, a highly-experienced veteran inspector. The team also consists of six other experienced, qualified inspectors: Howard Lacy, Ben Rash, Arturo Culmenero, Steve Cox, Danny Smith, and Karl Lenhoff. Three team members are assigned on each side of Blackstone Avenue, south of Shields Avenue to work and continue to implement and focus on the goal to bring 1,800 properties up to Code's standard by the end of 2010.
- Create a systematic inspection of code-offending units: The draft has been completed, which includes inspection criteria of quality standards, which integrates observed health risks onto Code inspection form. The draft also integrates observed health risks as per the 6th Goal (Create a clear checklist of Code, Health and Safety violations). This will enable the Code Team Members to check off visible health issues when inspecting properties. The form should be printed in multiple copies in order to channel the health factors to the proper agency for community assistance.
- Use legal tools such as the Real Property Ordinance & Receiverships: Charlotte Hylton is ready to utilize heavy legal tools for compliance, but continues to seek to receive Requests for Qualifications from receivers. Charlotte Hylton is looking for recommendations for individuals who are interested in that role as well as partners who are willing to train the receivers. Sharon Stanley will call California Apartment Association for possible recommendations to fill these roles. Charlotte Hylton asked for everyone's assistance. Dennis Woods requested the process and time line to have a Receiver in place. Charlotte Hylton explained the process and stated the filing can be done without litigation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sterling to write a letter to Stephanie Espinosa, California Apartment Association, on behalf of the 10 x 10 Committee asking for the criteria to assist in the process of a receiver, and whether it is a City position. Councilmember Sterling withdrew her motion and suggested the 10 x 10 Committee ask Stephanie Espinosa to attend a meeting to give a report to explain the process. Dennis Woods asked about contacting other cities that are currently utilizing Receivers. Charlotte Hylton indicated that Ontario is among other cities that have Receivers. Sharon Stanley added that she has been in contact with Andy Winger, City of Ontario, and stated he has effectively used the Receivership model numerous times. Bonnie Rusko indicated that Sacramento is another city utilizing Receivers.

- Hire additional City Attorneys dedicated to proactive Code Enforcement: City funds are currently frozen. The need is expected to grow as Pro-Active City and Community Partner code work is implemented. The 10 x 10 Committee will continue to monitor needs and potential funding sources.
- Create a clear checklist of Code, Health and Safety violations: The draft has been completed by Safe Housing Task Force and is integrated with the 3rd Goal (Create a systematic inspection of code-offending units).
- Implement an effective community engaged, pro-active Code Enforcement/Healthy Homes Program: The Concept Paper for Healthy Homes Program vision for initial communities has been completed. Sharon Stanley handed out copies of the Concept Paper, which outlines a community-engaged Code Enforcement Program. The design is for a partnership team consisting of a community organizer with a health advisor, who is trained in healthy homes hazards and related health issues. The health advisor would also be trained to make referrals to the proper health agencies. The first community grant is planned to be submitted to the Office of Refugee Resettlement by March 24. The Concept will then be expanded out through the work with the Fresno Housing Alliance. A Partners Meeting with The California Endowment is scheduled for April 8, regarding potential funding. Hopefully, the Code partners will be present in the Partners Meeting. Sharon Stanley also invited Councilmember Sterling to attend the meeting as well. The idea is to represent the team as the community and City together.

- Engage community partners, such as the Fresno Housing Alliance, Fresno County Health, The California Apartment Association (CAA) and other community health organizations: The convener of Innovation Code serves on the board of FHA. FHA is provoking the development of the Healthy Homes vision. Representative from County Health and CAA are regular attendees at the Innovative Code Task Force Meeting.
- Educate all tenants and owners regarding the health risks of substandard housing: Continue to work in partnership with FIRM Healthy Home. The City has secured a lead-related grant. FIRM has secured Lead Safe Work removal practices grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Strengthen enforcement of existing regulations regarding cooling systems: There has been no specific progress since the last meeting. Sharon Stanley anticipates reviewing the current regulations at the next 10 x 10 Committee meeting.
- Sharon Stanley handed out a flyer for California Pan Ethnic Health Network, which is working on legislation to build healthy communities. Keith Bergthold requested the information to be emailed to either Trai Her, Planning and Development Administration, or Linda Lawrence, Housing and Community Development, in order to facilitate delivery to all 10 x 10 Committee members.
- Sharon Stanley announced a Healthy Homes National Conference related to the many concerns the Committee is addressing. It would be beneficial if the 10 x 10 Committee could send a representative to the conference.

1. Request for Letter of Support for Grant Opportunity

Sharon Stanley requested a letter of support from the 10 x 10 Committee for the Healthy Homes Program proposal for March 24. She indicated that a separate support letter would be requested from Code Enforcement. A consensus from the Committee was in favor of providing the support letter. Councilmember Sterling will send the draft for the support letter.

C. All Other Subcommittee Reports

Councilmember Sterling has been appointed to the San Joaquin Valley Housing Trust representing COG. There have been two meetings and currently a strategic meeting is planned. Sara Hedgpeth-Harris, who is also a representative, stated they now have a complete Board with a representative from every county. The next step is non-profit status. Councilmember Sterling and Sara Hedgpeth-Harris will keep the 10 x 10 Committee informed relating to housing and the various types of programs on state and federal levels. Sara Hedgpeth-Harris added that it will be good for sharing information and resources. It will be beneficial for building relationships and a strong team to represent the Valley in Sacramento. Councilmember Sterling mentioned that Rollie Smith has been instrumental in bringing the Board members together.

Sara Hedgpeth-Harris inquired about the Homelessness Collaborative. Councilmember Sterling stated that the leadership group has met and is in the process of connecting with those who will put the plan together. Councilmember Sterling is a district representative for the area. The working group will receive direction and allow them a certain time period to pull the plan together. Hopefully, by the end of May or June, the group will have information to report back to the City of Fresno regarding the irradiation of homelessness. Sara Hedgpeth-Harris asked who is on the working committee. Councilmember Sterling indicated there are about 30 individuals on the committee. The full member list will be made available as soon as the recruitment process has completed.

Bonnie Rusko reminded the Committee that Universal Design will be going before City Council on March 25, 2008. Councilmember Sterling expressed her appreciation to ADA and all other groups that have met with her staff, Darius Assemi with Granville Homes, Jerry Bishop with the Building and Safety Division. Once Council approves Universal Design, there will be a precedent set for every new home builder that works with the funding process with the City of Fresno

IV. DISCUSSION OF NEW MEMBERS FOR THE 10 X 10 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

V. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting adjourned at